



In one of his Union Army uniforms,
photo, ca: 1861-1864

Sgt. George H. Morse

56th Massachusetts Veteran Infantry, Co. A

35th New York Volunteers, Co. A

Of Walpole, Massachusetts

According to his descendents, he joined the Union Army because he wanted to abolish slavery

First enlisted on March 14, 1862, in Watertown, New York, 35th N.Y. Volunteers, Co. D

Re-enlisted on December 26, 1863, 56th Massachusetts Veteran Volunteers, Co. A

Fought in battles of Rappahannock Station, Sulfur Springs, Second Antietam, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, and taken prisoner at the mine explosion at Petersburg, Virginia, July 1864, where he was present when enemy Rebel soldiers murdered U.S. Colored Troops.

He was paroled from Rebel prisons, where he lost 50 lbs, and returned to Walpole, where, while still ill from his imprisonment, he was taken by stretcher to the polls to vote for Abraham Lincoln as president for a second term. He considered the Battle of the Wilderness and his captivity in Rebel prisons the most important events of his entire service.

As a member of the Freedmans Bureau of Boston, he returned to Culpepper, Virginia to teach freed slaves.

He returned to Walpole and resided at 415 Elm St., where he worked as a farmer up until a few days before he died.

He was a most respected citizen in the town of Walpole, and a true American and patriot.

His efforts and sacrifices during and after the Civil War were based upon his beliefs in the principles of the Declaration of Independence that... *all men are created equal*. He was part of the great effort that led to maintaining the Union of the United States and the freedom of nearly 4 million African Americans from the bonds of slavery.

b. February 4, 1837 –d. February 13, 1920

Research: Michael E. Amaral, member, Walpole Historical Commission

Sources: The Walpole Historical Society, The War Diary and Letters of Stephen Minot Weld 1861-1865, the Morse Family

Photo: Courtesy of Mrs Phyllis (Morse) Sherman, WHS Class of 1958

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